

From: Jim Foley
To: Council; Clerk
Cc: Catherine Somers; Randi Chen; Monica Renn; Sue Farwell; Joe Pirzynski; Andrea Romano; Brian Bernasconi; Kevin Youkilis
Subject: American Rescue Act Funds - Suggested Uses
Date: Thursday, April 1, 2021 11:27:35 AM

Dear Honorable Mayor and Distinguished Members of Town Council,

The Chamber Board has reviewed possible uses for the American Recovery Plan Act funds that Los Gatos will receive in the next 60 days. While we understand there are many ideas that will be brought forth by the Town staff and other stakeholders and members of the public, we encourage the Council to think seriously about using some of the money for real economic recovery and vitality projects for our downtown, as vetted by the business community represented by our membership.

We propose the following efforts:

1. **Parklets - \$1MM** - complete funding for all costs to construct semi-permanent parklets, including reimbursing the original five previously constructed semi-permanent parklets in full. Also, reimbursing a certain amount for the temporary parklets.
2. **Events - \$250k** – budget to catch up on events the Town has missed. The events would scale up along with the restrictions. Starting with smaller “non gathering” events including Thursday street closure, then move to smaller block parties, then finally to something significant in the Fall. Efforts will be in place to ensure that events are welcoming and inclusive of all.
3. **Parking - TBD** – Funding should be readily available to quickly implement all aspects of the Dixon study. Funds can be used right now for wayfinding signage and apps; even if only temporarily. Funds can also be considered for an Employee Parking Permit program and potentially an employee mini-shuttle (golf cart or small electric vehicle). The mini-shuttle could potentially be expanded to assist visitors as well. This will help unlock the underutilized parking inventory in the outer lying lots as pointed out in the Dixon study. This is critical in conjunction with the reduction of inventory on N Santa Cruz Ave and Main St that will result from the new parklets. Lastly, a Town Trolley pilot program to move people around Town to encourage and connect different dining and shopping districts more easily, in a fun and memorable way!

Thank you so much for your time and consideration of these requests. We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday night. In the meantime if you have any questions, please reach out to any one of us copied.

Jim Foley
Director/Chair
Los Gatos Chamber of Commerce Board/Subcommittee on Legislative Affairs & Economic Vitality